

Annual Report for the year 1894
For the Urban Sanitary District of Downham.
Estimated Popⁿ 2593.

Gentlemen,

Birth Rate

During the year 1894 the number of Births registered was 71, - males 32, females 39 giving a Birth rate of 27.3 per 1000 of the population. The average number of Births for the previous ten years was 67.

Death Rate

The number of Deaths was 48, - males 32, females 16. After deducting 10 as not belonging to the Urban District (viz 8 in Workhouse Infirmary and 2 visitors) the Death rate appears as 14.6 per 1000 of the population as compared with 12.1 in 1893, 18.5 in 1892 and 21.2 in 1891. There was not a single death registered in the month of November.

Infant Mortality

Six infants died under 1 year, three being registered as premature. The Death rate under this head is 84 infants per 1000 Births registered.

Aged Mortality

Deaths over 65 years were 24 or 9.2 per 1000. The united ages of these persons give an average of 80½ years, this is a remarkable record of the longevity of the inhabitants. -

Erysipel

Under this class no death has been recorded in this District since 1892.

One case of Scarlatina occurred in a travelling van in the month of July. Its origin could not be traced. Diphtheria attacked a young person in the Workhouse who had been attending at the Board School in September but the case was a solitary one.

In November a case of the same malady was observed in Paradise Road, there were no defects about the house or premises and no history of importation.

A case of Enteric fever was notified in January as occurring in Paradise Road. Inspection of the premises and water source was made but no origin of the case (a mild one) could be traced.

A second case was observed in Porter Street in April; the patient contracted the disease in London.

Six cases of Erysipelas came to my knowledge among persons of middle and advanced age.

Influenza, which made its appearance in previous Decembers was prevalent throughout January & February but the type was not severe. A few sporadic cases were noticed throughout the year.

The high death rate from Phthisis 3.4 per 1000 has added materially to the table of mortality, other causes of death were Pneumonia & Bronchitis (3) Heart disease (3) Cancer (2). The low general death rate for the year considered with the reduced infantile mortality and absence of typhotic causes, warrants me in stating that the condition of the District is satisfactory. The fact that the death rate is higher than in the previous year signifies that a greater number of old people have dropped off.

Water Supply. The public wells afford excellent water to those who can resort to them - at the lower end of the District there is an inadequate supply of wholesome water. The question of water-works at the upper end of the District, with sufficient storage capacity should be considered by your Council.

Drainage. The drainage system of the Town remains efficient.

Inspectors The eight bakehouses in the District have been visited

Department. and found in good order. The slaughtering yards

of which there are six have been inspected periodically. Thirteen samples of water have been submitted to my examination - in one instance the well was condemned. Three Villas on Bexwell Road, including two newly built have been properly connected with the main sewer. Two cess-pits were destroyed and new sanitary conveniences fixed. Ash bins in various premises under observation have been kept orderly, verbal notices for clearing out having sufficed. Water supply having failed for the occupants of three houses on Bexwell Road an order was made on the owner to deepen the well. The necessary work is being carried out.

Annexed to this Report will be found the usual Tables of Deaths and cases of infectious disease

I am Gentlemen

Yours Med.^l
Thomas G. Wales.
Med.^l Officer of Health

28th February 1895.

